

PENSION POINTERS.

Inquiries Answered and Suggestions Made.

M. L. M. Allegheny, Pa.—Without a discharge, no arrears of pay or ration at issue can be collected.

E. G. K. Dover, N. J.—The act of May 9, 1900, is held simply to change the phraseology of the act of June 27, 1891, without making any change as regards title to invalid pension under that law. The reason you cannot get your pension restored from the date you were dropped is that automatically the same rulings and practice still prevail as those under which you were dropped. You have been restored, not because it is held you were not discharged, but because it is considered that you have since become really pensionably disabled.

Quincy, Ill.—The soldier's death not being in any way due to his service, the widow has not, and never had, any title to pension under the general law, and no right to be restored to the general law pension of certain re-entrained widows does not apply.

J. B. Deane, Ohio—There is no absolutely binding law, from general law pension, the act of March 3, 1883, requires that if the parties are married subsequent to that date, and subsequent to the soldier's service, the husband, if he lived together continuously until his death, but claims of widows on account of Spanish and Philippine wars are expressly excepted from this provision.

S. W. Akron, Ohio—The so-called Western Branch of the National Military Home, Inc., near the city of Akron, Ohio, is a "National Military Home, Inc." The legal wife of the soldier at his death is recognized as his widow under pension laws, even though she may have been divorced while living. If married to a soldier of the war of 1812-15 after June 25, 1890, the widow could not obtain pension except by proving the soldier's death due to his service.

F. S. and J. R. Florence, Wis.—In failing to give the reasons for the pension reduction, the Commissioner of Pensions might be regarded as having failed to comply with the letter of the statute, act of Dec. 21, 1893, which requires that the pensioner be furnished "a full and true statement of any charges or allegations" upon which the proposed action is based. The reduction and dropping of pension is a decision and was based on the holding, which still prevails, that the act of 1890 was erroneously construed and illegally administered from the date of enactment to the date of the act of 1890 was thereupon revised by a Board of Revision, so-called.

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E. A. S. Indiana, Neb.—The general law rate of pension of a Captain's widow is \$20, provided that the husband was a Captain at the time of his death. His rank at that time would determine the rate of his widow's pension.

L. F. K. La Grange, Mo.—There is no United States law regulating the allowances of guardians of insane or minor pensioners.

W. G. Little Falls, Minn.—The Pension Bureau probably has the right to stop payment of a pension after issue and after execution of a will, but before actual payment, in order to correct an error.

P. C. Mr. Sterling, Wis.—Invalid pension under the act of 1890 who have reached the age of 75 years and are receiving less than \$12 per month, can obtain an increase to \$12 per month, on application therefor, and furnishing satisfactory evidence of age.

H. F. Greenville, Va.—Bounty and pension are two separate matters. The receipt of one does not preclude the obtaining of the other.

J. A. C. National Home, Va.—If the proofs are otherwise conclusive, a pension should be finally acted on within six months after medical examination is had; but the time is frequently longer.

D. S. N. Y.—The pension laws do not in any way protect pension money after it reaches the pensioner's hands, nor property bought with pension money.

Work of the Pension Office.

The report of the certificates issued for the week ending Aug. 17, shows:

Army invalids: Original, 27; renewal, 21; increase, 2; decrease, 1; restoration, 35; supplemental, 5; duplicate, 9; accrued, 101. Total, 271.

Army invalids (with Spain): Original, 27; renewal, 21; increase, 2; decrease, 1; restoration, 35; supplemental, 5; duplicate, 9; accrued, 101. Total, 271.

Army invalids, etc.: Original, 46; renewal, 35; increase, 2; decrease, 1; restoration, 35; supplemental, 5; duplicate, 9; accrued, 101. Total, 271.

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SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Disensions Among the Cleveland Commanders.

The following open letter is issued to the Grand Army men of Cleveland by L. W. Bailey:

Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic:

There seems to be a wrong impression on the minds of some of our comrades regarding the candidates for Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

In the first place the name of Comrade John C. Smith is suggested by some of his friends. Then Comrade Gen. James Barnett's name was placed before the comrades, and as long as it was thought there was a possibility that he might be induced to accept the honor, an attempt was made to induce him to do so. When the General declined to be a candidate, the name of Comrade J. C. Smith was suggested in the minds of the comrades. J. C. Smith, J. J. Sullivan, J. L. Smith, C. C. Devotion, J. O. Winship, James Hays, J. P. Smith, and several other comrades were mentioned in connection with the office.

At the first meeting of the committee from the several city posts all the best of the comrades were present. The committee was organized, and the first meeting was held. The committee was organized, and the first meeting was held. The committee was organized, and the first meeting was held.

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THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE: WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1901.

Oregon Ladies of the G. A. R.

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FEATHERED ARCHITECTS.

Curious Structures Made by Some of the Well-known Birds.

The osprey, or fish-hawk, builds a nest less remarkable for skill in architecture than for enormous bulk. It is occupied year after year, and as it is repaired with additions made annually, it finally reaches such size that it would make a good load for a horse. Nests have been recorded which were nearly eight feet in diameter and equally deep.

It is usually placed on the top of a tree. The foundation is of sticks, often two or three feet long and an inch in diameter. On these are piled corn stalks, grass, straw, pieces of turf, sea weed and the like. In some localities the purple grackle builds its nest in the crevices of the osprey's nest and these are usually as good neighbors live in perfect harmony.

The bald eagle builds a nest much like the osprey's in a tall tree, preferably a dead one. They are among the earliest of birds to begin nesting, being in the whole of the country by the first of May. It seems certain that bald eagles when once mated remain constant to each other until they die. The nest is made of sticks, the same nest with yearly additions and repairs for many years, so that it finally attains very large dimensions.

The house wren builds a nest of mud, a creature apparently made especially for air and sunshine, should ever nest in burrows, but the petrels, the bank swallows, the kingbirds in Europe, and the house wren, familiar examples of birds that rear their young under ground, either in the abandoned holes of burrowing mammals or in those of their own kind.

The Western house wren is particularly fond of the prairie dogs, often building its nest in the hole of a prairie dog. The bank swallows nest in large colonies in holes from one to three feet deep dug by themselves in perpendicular banks of soft earth. The nest is made of mud, and the most fragile mud would seem difficult enough for these tiny birds to penetrate into the earth so hard as to blunt the edge of a knife.

The house wren, a much larger bird than the house sparrow, is a much more ambitious builder, its nest ranging from four to 15 feet in depth, usually about six or eight feet. Some of the nests are said to be